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WAUKEGAN — A \$1.8 million plan to replace a Waukegan Harbor water main that one official said runs "dangerously close" to the bottoms of some passing boats has been approved by the City Council.

The expenditure will be made on the condition that the city receives a \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Commerce Department. But Waukegan water plant director Jeff Musinski said the harbor main should be replaced to coincide with planned dredging in the area.

In May, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park, announced a \$2.6 million grant had been secured to dredge the inner harbor of material thought to contain lingering PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), a project that would also add depth to the passage.

Musinski said the existing main sits about 25 feet below the waterline, so the dredging project would expose it if a replacement isn't put in place.

"The mains were put in about 1928, so it's time to replace them anyway," said Musinski, adding that the new harbor line — which directs drinking water from the lakefront plant to city lines — will be up to 70 feet deep after completion.